

Task 3.8 – Security Patch Implementation Plan

Task Overview

Currently, FSA has not created a baseline system architecture for all of its components. Without this baseline, tracking the latest software patches applied to FSA's system components is an overly difficult undertaking. To create a patch implementation plan we will first assist FSA staff who will create a baseline architecture for all of their system components. We will require significant FSA management support, as this effort will be labor intensive. Once we are confident that this effort will produce acceptable results, we will develop a patch implementation plan that will identify the latest software patches, disseminates notices to the proper FSA/contractor system personnel, and track each patch implementation.

Task Details

The following items have been identified as being the significant goals and events in accomplishing this task item.

Objective(s):

- Coordinate efforts and methods with FSA staff who will create baseline architecture.
- Find a solution/tool(s) for tracking and inventory.
- Develop plan for regular updating of software patches
- Develop plan tracking/inventory and compliance of patch implementation
- Ensure the plan is not overly burdensome and achieves its intended goals.

Milestone(s):

- Review (read) OCIO and FSA documentation on current methods and tools used or proposed for creating and tracking a baseline architecture.
- Meet with FSA personnel to understand what has been done.
- Written comments on possible methods and tools
- Selection of best methods and tool
- Write plan and procedure for updating software patches and for tracking compliance.
- Training

Task Status

Patch Management did not receive much attention this last status period. Emphasis was placed on completing Incident Response. However, we have spoken to the managers of EDNET about their patch management status and we are waiting to receive documentation from them. Additionally, we will meet with FSA CIO's Innovation group who is beginning an enterprise configuration management effort. We will provide expertise to this group and ensure that patch management and security issues are integrated into the Innovations solution.

During the next two months full attention will be given to addressing patch management issues. If we are able to meet with the key players at FSA, we feel that it is possible to complete the requirements of this task item as listed above within the next two-month period.